

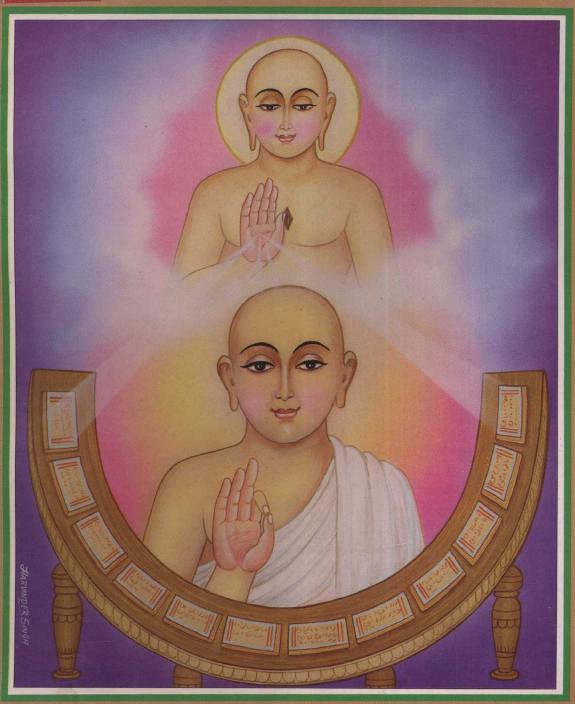
A Mahavir Seva Trust Presentation

THE FIRST PROPAGATOR OF AGAMS:

ARYA SUDHARMA

Vol. 33

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In the modern Shvetambar tradition fifth Ganadhar Arya Sudharma occupies a very important position. He was the first Pattadhar (head of the order) of Bhagavan Mahavir's order and the first leader in his spiritual tradition (Shrut parampara) and lineage of disciples (shishya parampara).

The first propagator of the knowledge given by Bhagavan Mahavir, which is today preserved with us in the form of Agams, was Arya Sudharma. He gave the form of Sutras (scriptures) to the words (tenets) of Bhagavan Mahavir. The same tenets he transferred to his chief disciple Arya Jambu as knowledge. That is why he is accepted as the First Propagator of Agams.

Today all Shramans and Shramanis of all extant sects of Shvetambar Jains belong to the lineage of disciples of Arya Sudharma. The first acharya (head of the order) of the existing Shraman tradition was Arya Sudharma. That is why all the ascetics are called disciples of Arya Sudharma.

Arya Sudharma was very close to Bhagavan Mahavir. He worshipped and served Bhagavan Mahavir with complete physical and mental devotion, and ensured the future progress of the lineage of his disciples and tradition of his knowledge.

The scholarly thinker acharya Shri Vijaya Nityanand Surishvar ji M. has written this nice, interesting and authentic brief biography of the fifth Ganadhar Arya Sudharma Swami in light of historical facts. It is interesting, instructive as well as informative. We express our indebtedness.

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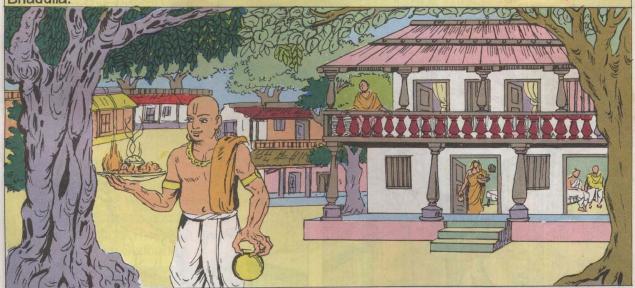
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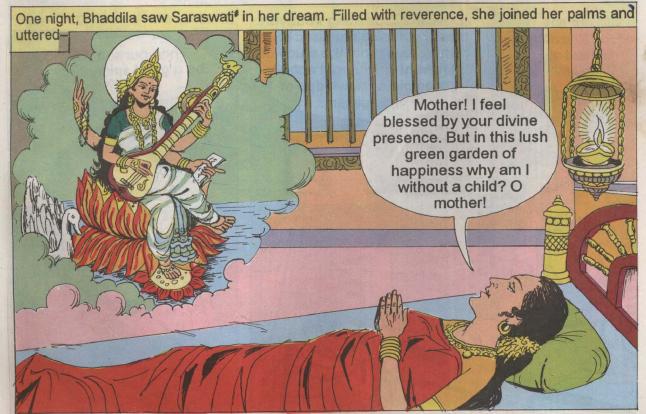
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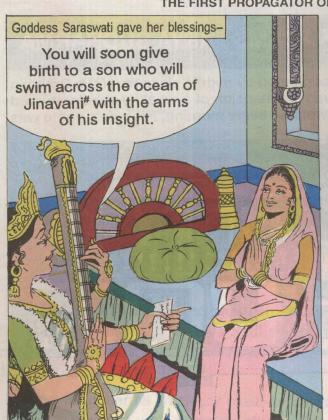
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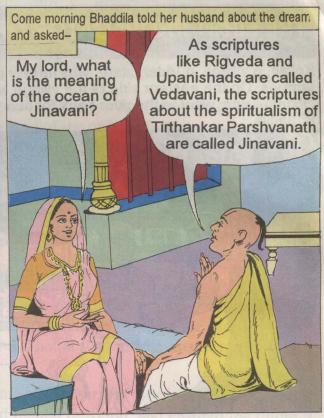
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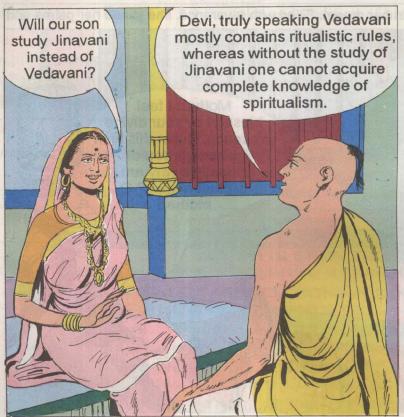
Kollag, a village in Videh state, was largely populated by middle class ritualistic Brahmin families. On the eastern side of the village was the mansion of a wealthy scholar named Dhammil who went to the river bank for sun-worship every morning. His wife's name was Bhaddila.









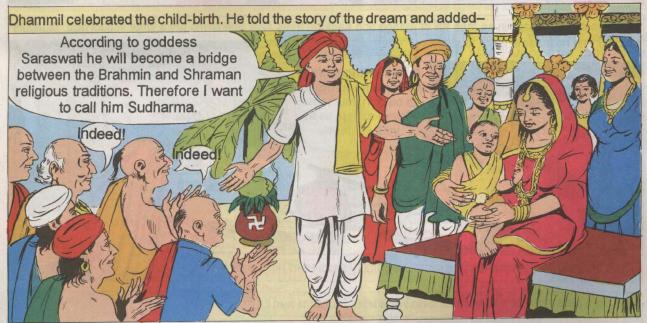


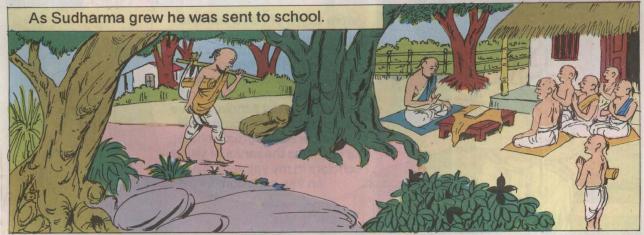


Tenets of the detached Tirthankars.

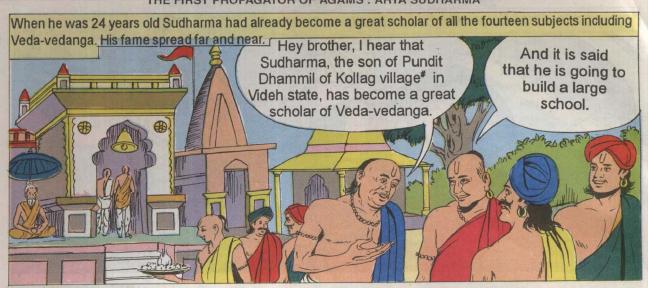
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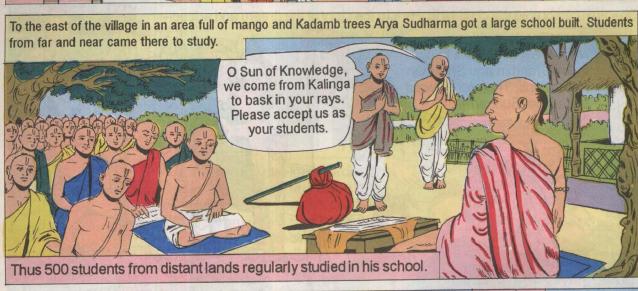


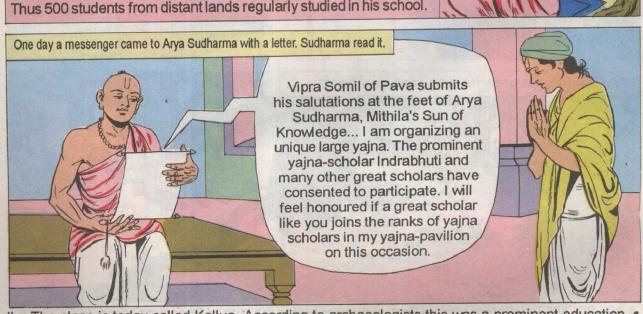




607 BC, 550 BV (Before Vikram Era), eight year before the birth of Bhagavan Mahavir.

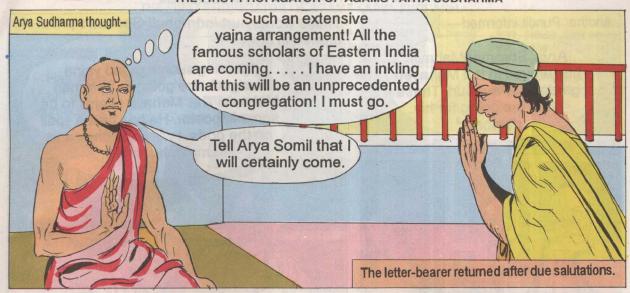




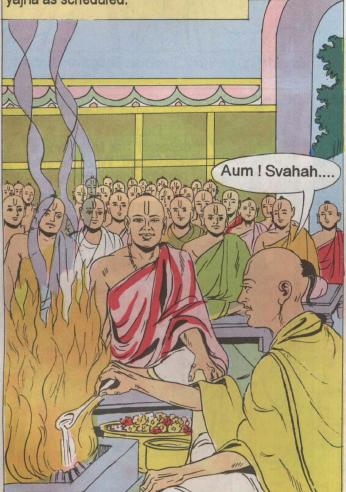


The place is today called Kollua. According to archaeologists this was a prominent education 4

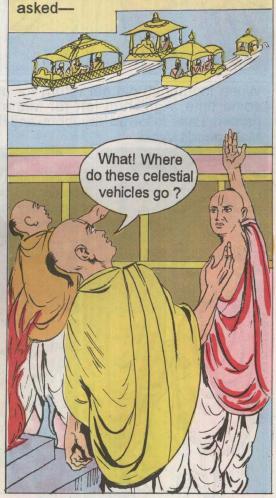
Jain Educenter near Vaishali where Mahapundits Wyakt and Sudharma had their large schools w. jainelibrary.org

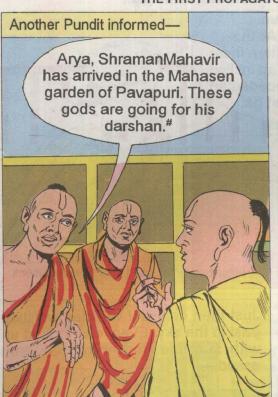


A few days later Arya Sudharma arrived at middle Pava with his 500 disciples. Indrabhuti Gautam started the yajna as scheduled.



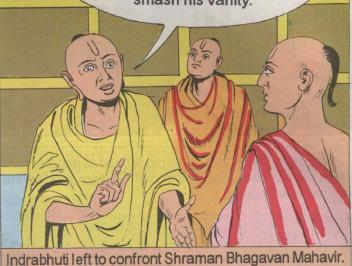
Just then celestial vehicles whistled past in the sky. Every one looked up with surprise. Indrabhuti Gautam





These words hurt Indrabhuti Gautam's pride. He uttered in anger—

Ignoring such a grand yajna the gods are going to Shraman Mahavir. This Mahavir seems to be some impostor. He has cast a spell on the gods. I will go at once and smash his vanity.

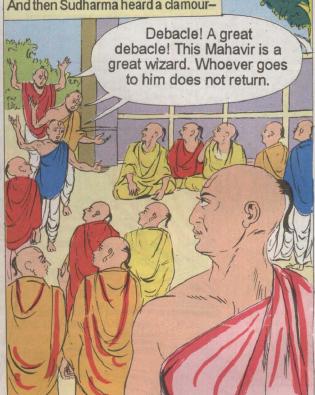


When Indrabhuti did not return for quite | And then Sudharma heard a clamour-

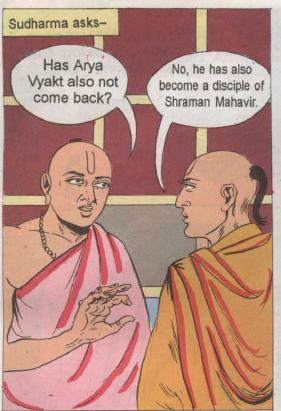
some time, Agnibhuti left for Mahasen garden. Later followed Vayubhuti and then Mahapundit Vyakt.

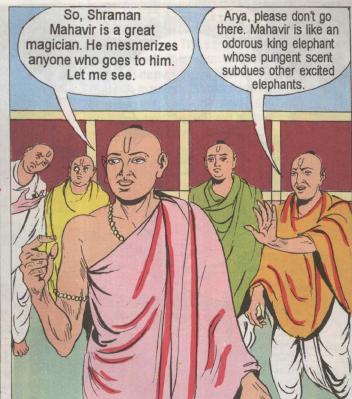
Indeed, Shraman
Mahayir is





To behold and offer homage.



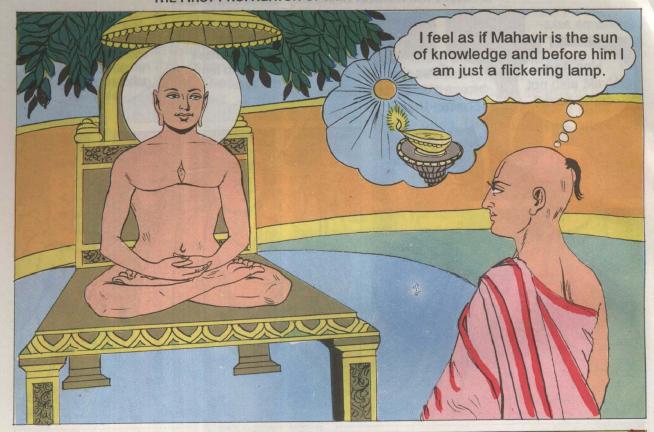


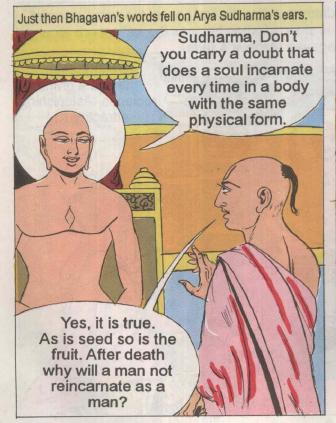
No! I have the victory-blessing of goddess Saraswati. I have never faced defeat. This day too I will furl the victory-flag. I will bring back all the pundits along with Shraman Mahavir to this yaina platform. Filed with pride Sudharma left with his 500

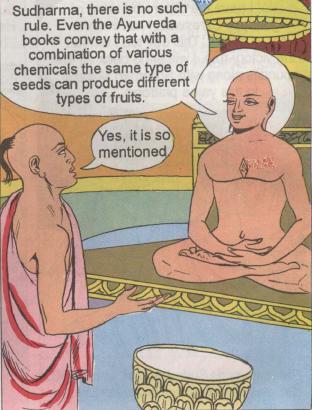
disciples for defeating Bhagavan Mahavir.

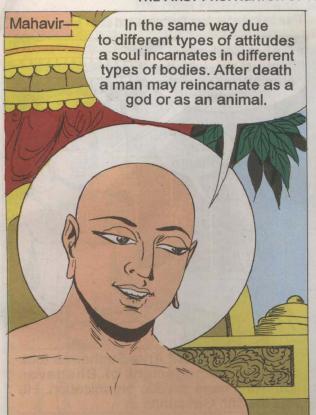
Sudharma enters the first gate of the samavasaran*. He is stunned when he sees the radiant orb around Bhagavan Mahavir's face. Great! Indeed. he has a divine radiance. Astonishing attraction....!

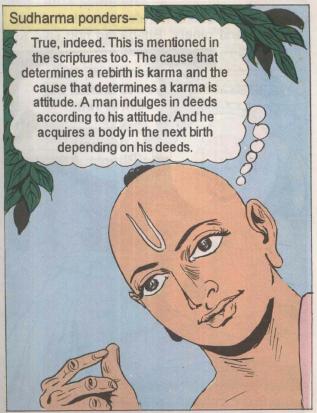
Tirthankar's divine pavilion.





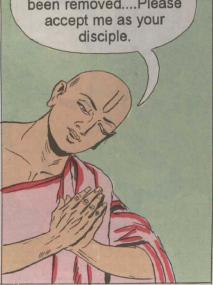


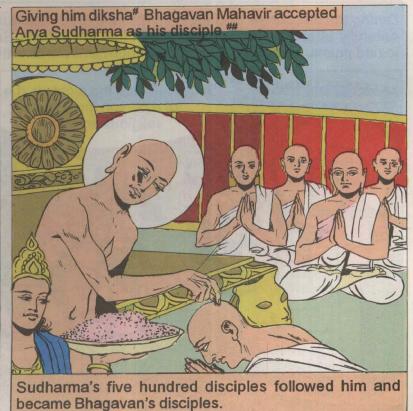




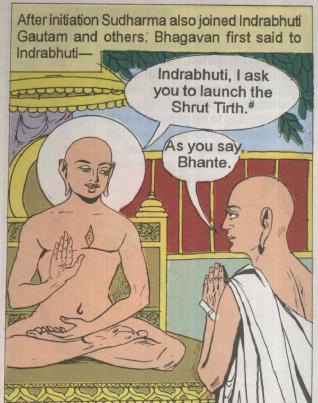
Sudharma When Mahavir's logic he realized the extant of his own ignorance. He at once accepted-

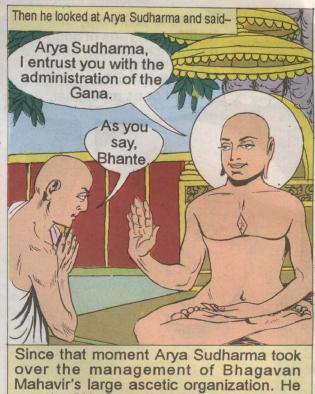
Arya, What you say is true. My doubt has been removed....Please accept me as your disciple.





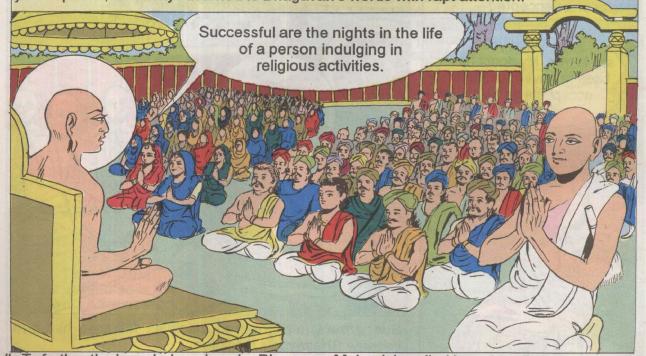
Formal initiation. ## At that time Pundit Sudharma was about 50 years old. 500 BV





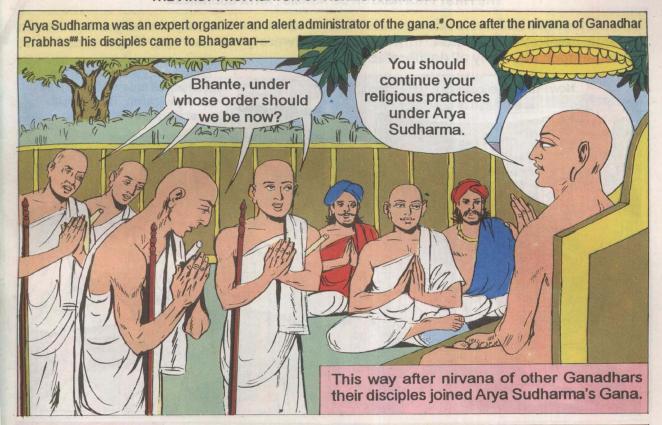
was the fifth Ganadhar.

During the discourses of Bhagavan Mahavir Arya Sudharma always took a front seat and carefully listened. Whereas Indrabhuti had all curiosity, Sudharma craved to listen. With joined palms, he always listened to Bhagavan's words with rapt attention.



To further the knowledge given by Bhagavan Mahavir is called launching of Shrut Tirth. 10

This includes guiding the studies and following of codes of conduct by the ascetic organization.



Some ancient writings about Arya Sudharma's becoming the head of Bhagavan Mahavir's religious order are as follows—

Bhagavan gave Arya Sudharma the order to supervise the Gana.

— Avashyak Niryukti by Acharya Shri Bhadrabahu.

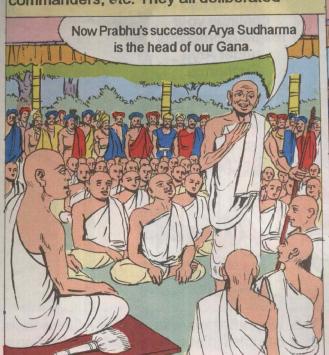
In Madhyam Pava, Bhagavan Mahavir conferred the title of Tirthadhip (head of the order) on lion-like Arya Sudharma of Agnivaishyayan gotra who just had an extremely flimsy veil of karma.

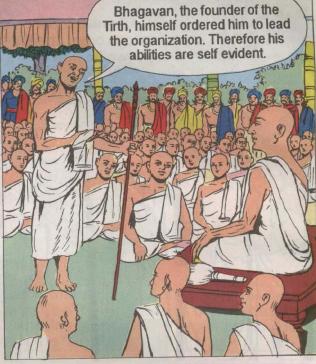
— Ganadhar Sattari

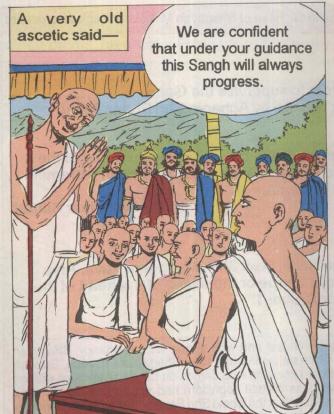
After the nirvana of Bhagavan Mahavir on Kartik Badi 30 in Madhyam Pava, Arya Sudharma sat on Bhagavan's patta (religious throne or the status of the head of the order) on Kartik Sudi 1.

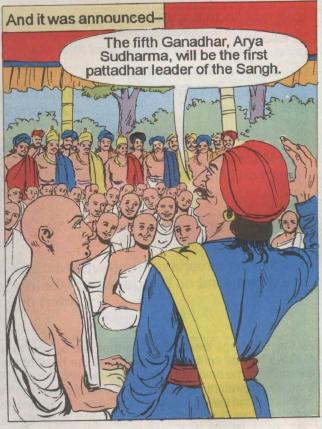
All these writings clearly indicate that finding him to be the ablest and with a long life expectancy, Bhagavan Mahavir himself conferred the status of the head of the Gana on Sudharma. After Bhagavan's nirvana, Gautam Swami became an omniscient. The religious heir of a Tirthankar is one who carries on the Shrut tradition without a break. Therefore he has to be a chhadmasth (one who has a finite cognition) and not an omniscient. Arya Sudharma had the knowledge of 14 Purvas. It appears, therefore, that the whole Shri Sangh must have unanimously accepted Arya Sudharma, the Bhagavan's appointee, as the head of the order.

After Bhagavan Mahavir's nirvana celebrations all the ascetics and the laity assembled in a large pavilion in Pavapuri. In this assembly were present many kings, merchants, commanders, etc. They all deliberated-

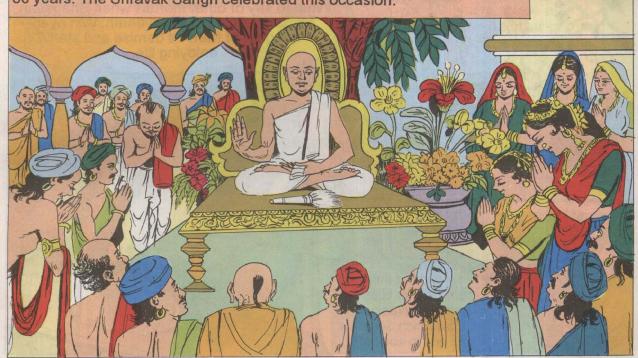








Thus Arya Sudharma got the status of the head of Bhagavan Mahavir's religious order on the request of the Shraman Sangh* and Shravak Sangh.** At that time his age was about 80 years. The Shravak Sangh celebrated this occasion.***



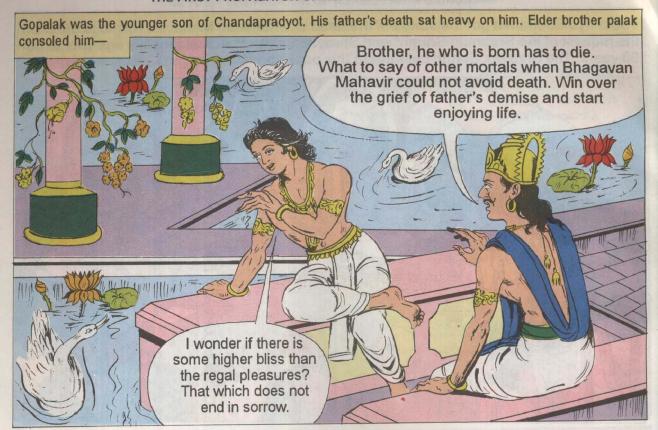
On the day of Bhagavan Mahavir's nirvana, King Chandapradyot died in Avanti. The day Arya Sudharma's consecration was being celebrated, Pradyot's son, Palak, was crowned in Avanti. Palak

was also a devotee of Bhagavan Mahavir.

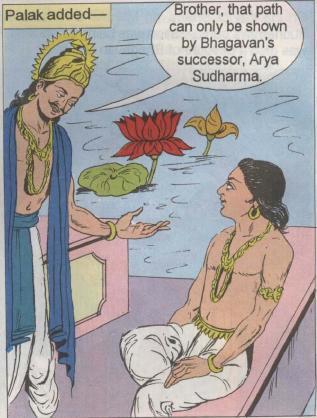




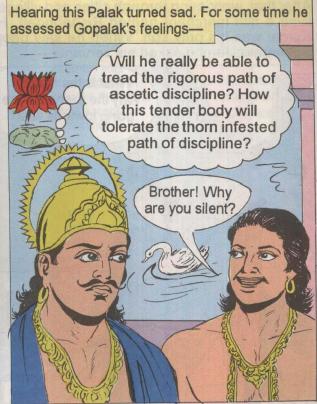
Ascetic organization. ## Social organization.



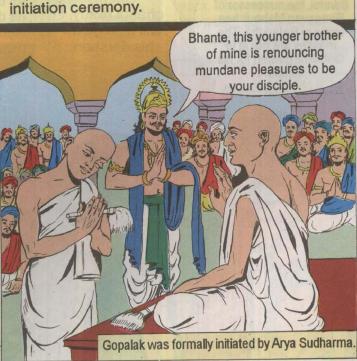










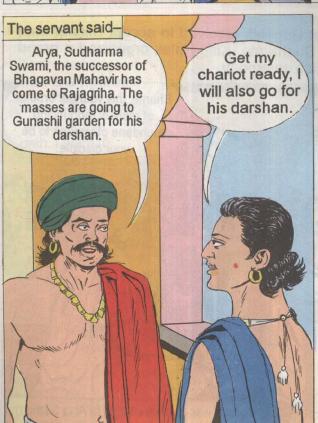


At last Gopalak resolved to accept Diksha from

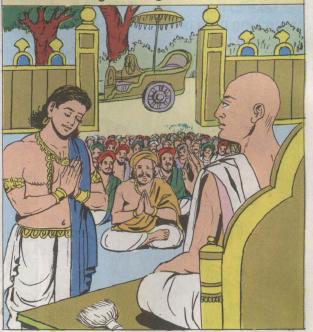
Arya Sudharma. King Palak organized a grand

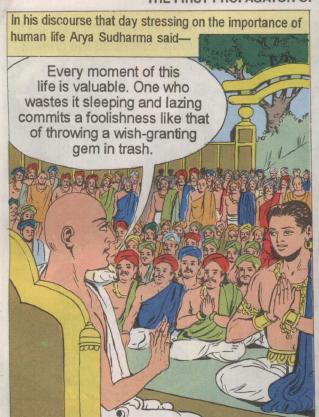
After that, wandering through cities and villages Arya Sudharma came to Rajagriha. There lived a rich merchant named Rishabhdatt. He had a large mansion in the city. Jambu Kumar was his only son. When he saw people of Rajagriha going for darshan of Arya Sudharma, Jambu asked his servants—

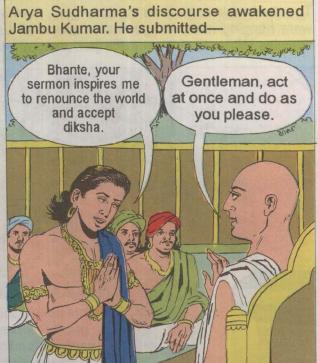




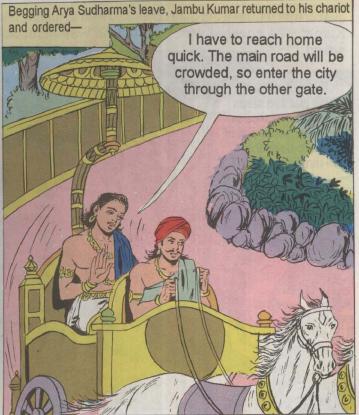
Jambu Kumar bathed, put on priceless ornaments, rode a beautiful chariot and arrived for darshan of Arya Sudharma. Jambu offered his devout salutations to Arya Sudharma Swami who was sitting on Bhagavan's seat.







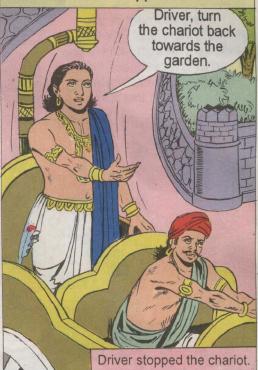




The chariot turned towards the other gate. On that gate were hanging many dangerous weapons for use on enemies. While still away from the gate Jambu thought—



The moment this thought flashed in his mind Jambu stopped the chariot-



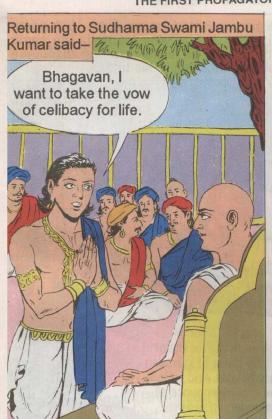
Just at that moment the gate collapsed with a rumble. Jambu Kumar was covered with dust but he was miraculously saved.



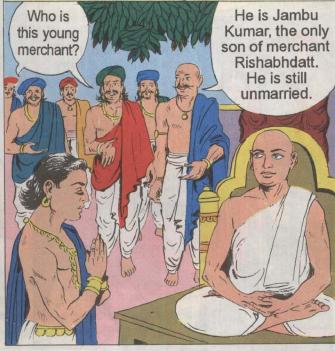
The driver turned the chariot back towards Gunashil garden. Jambu thought—

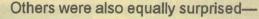
When I have to get initiated, why delay. I should at least take the yow of lifelong celibacy.





Sensing the strength and determination in his utterance, Arya Sudharma gave him a serious assessing look. The people standing around chatted with surprise—

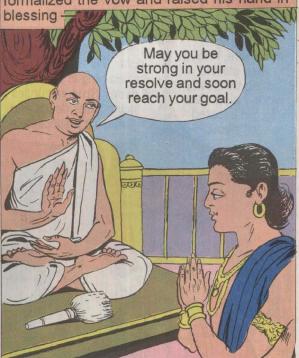




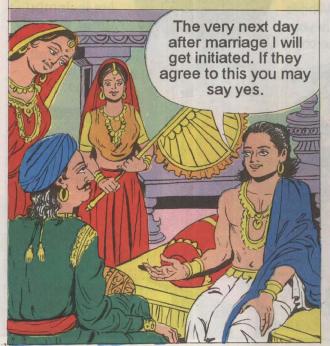
This youth! This beauty!
Such enormous wealth and a tough and almost impossible to follow resolve like celibacy!
Great! Great indeed!



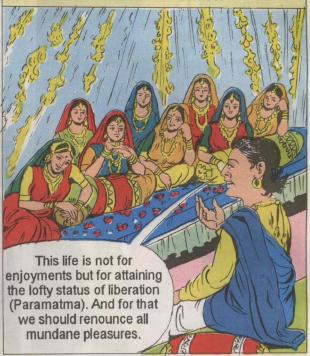
Arya Sudharma had judged the astonishing inner strength of Jambu. Indeed, he can cross this ocean of lofty waves of youth. He formalized the vow and raised his hand in blessing



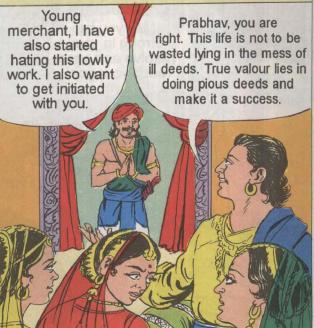
After the vow Jambu Kumar went home and told his plans to his parents. Under their pressure he agreed to marry eight beautiful girls. He, however, put forth a condition—

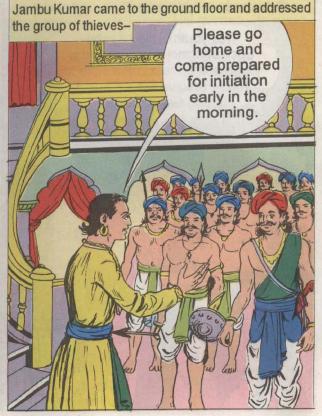


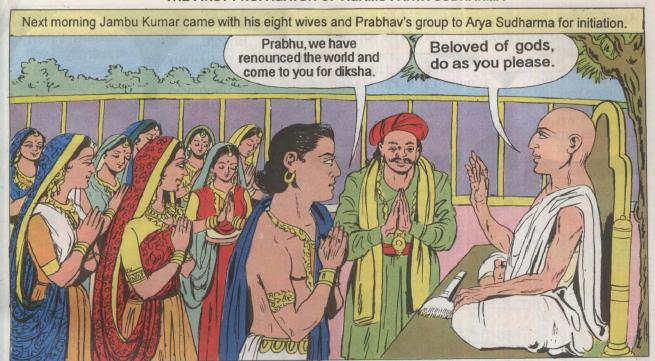
The girls accepted the condition. With pomp and show Jambu was married. The same night Jambu gave an inspiring discourse about renunciation to his brides.

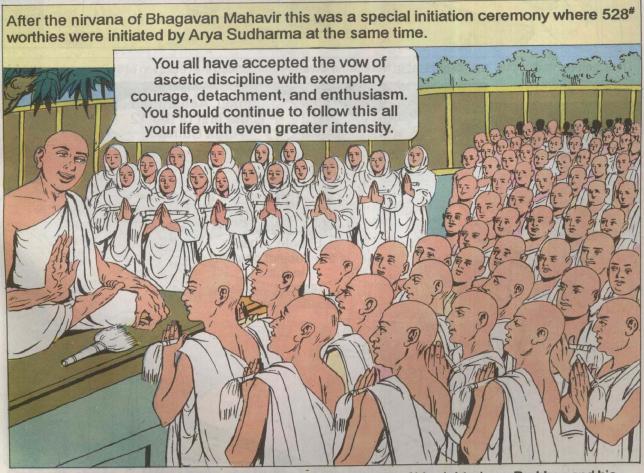


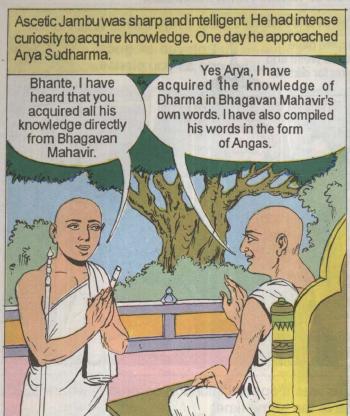
That night 500 thieves lead by Prabhav also came to raid. Prabhav listened to Jambu's discourse from outside the room and got enlightened. He approached and introduced himself—

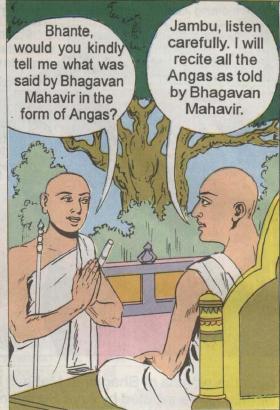


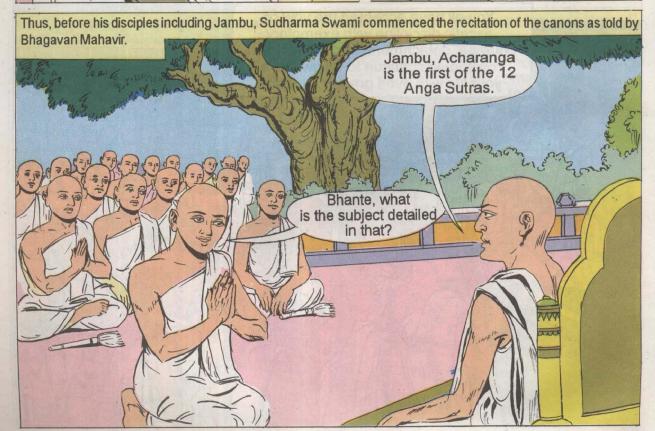








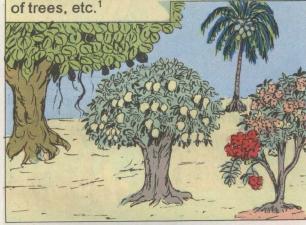




Jambu, Acharanga Sutra mainly contains details about religious conduct such as ahimsa, discipline, austerities, nonpossession, and celibacy. The biography of Bhagavan Mahavir is also a part of it.



In the third Anga named Sthananga subjects with numerical types from one to ten are included. For example four types



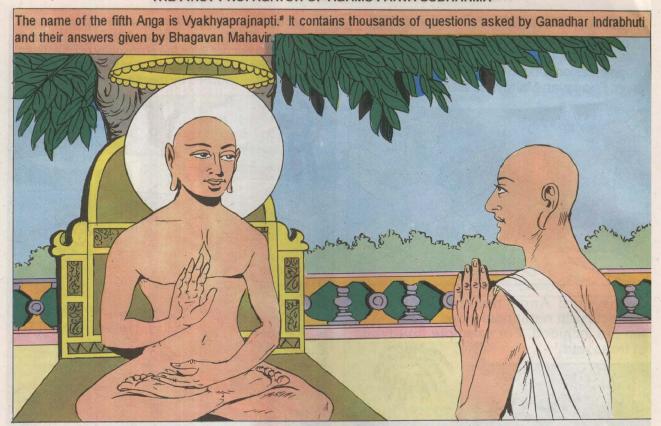
The second Anga, Sutrakritanga, contains philosophical discussions. With the example of white Pundarik lotus it is shown that like this lotus the philosophy of Bhagavan Mahavir is filled with the fragrance of truth. Only he can avail it who is untouched by the slime of this world.



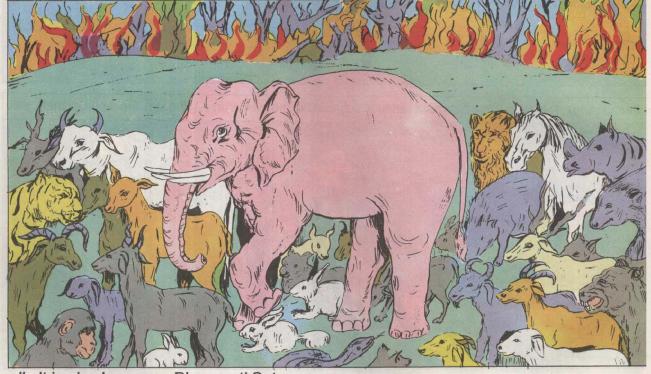
Samvayanga, the fourth Anga has miscellaneous subjects like mountains, rivers, the sun, the moon, planets, etc.



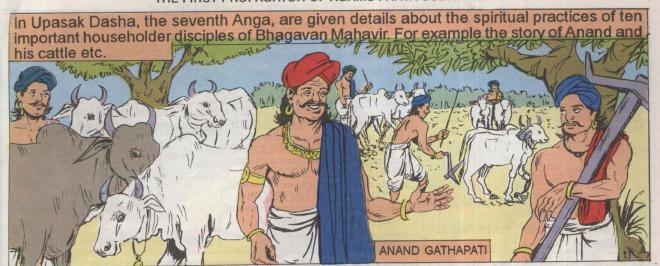
1. Only with shade, 2. With shade and fruits, 3. Only fruits and no shade, 4. Neither shade 23 nor fruits.

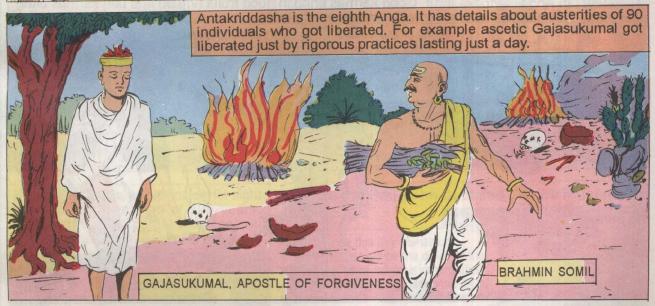


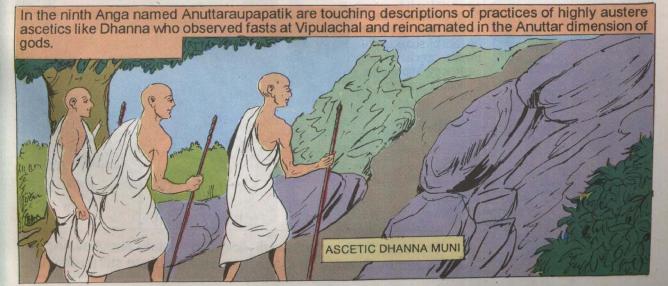
The sixth Anga is Jnatadharmakatha. It contains many examples and incidents that vivify the fundamentals of religion. For example the fruits of compassion shown for a rabbit by Megh Kumar in his incarnation as an elephant.

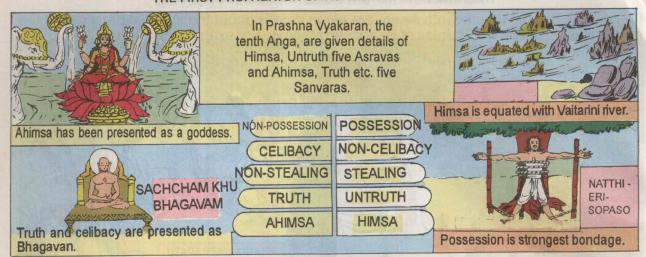


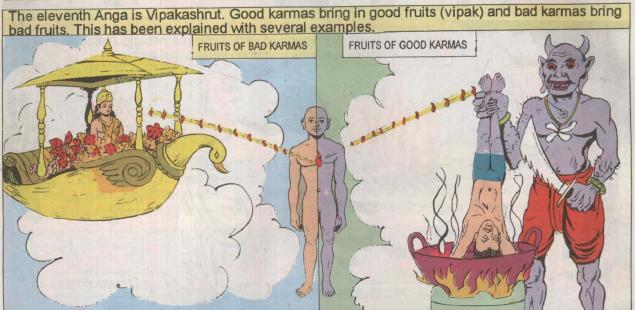
It is also known as Bhagavati Sutra.

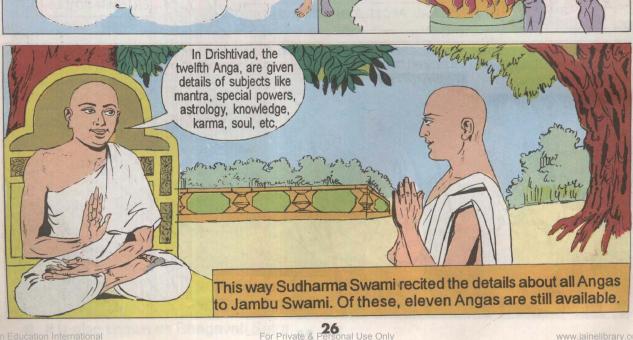








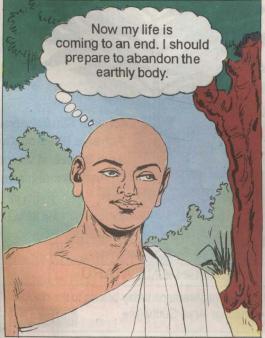




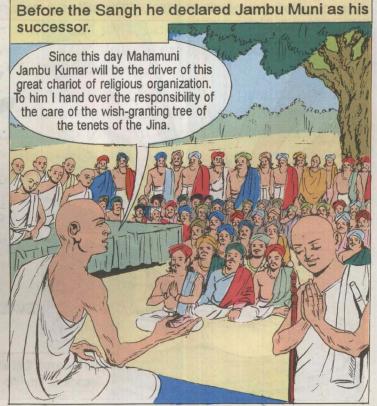
After propagating religion for 12 years Arya Sudharma attained Keval-jnana in 458 BV# Thousands of gods and men joined to celebrate the occasion.

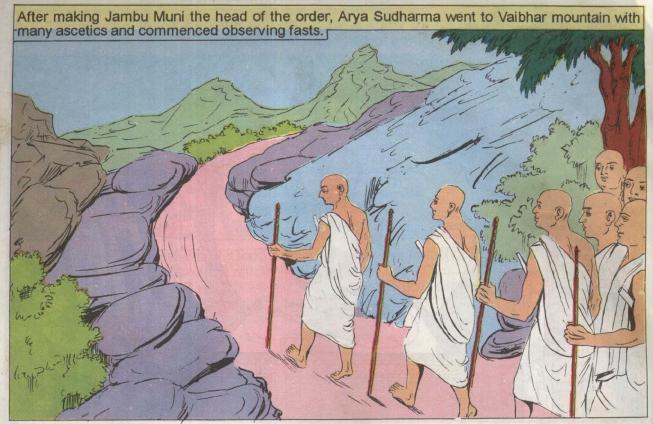


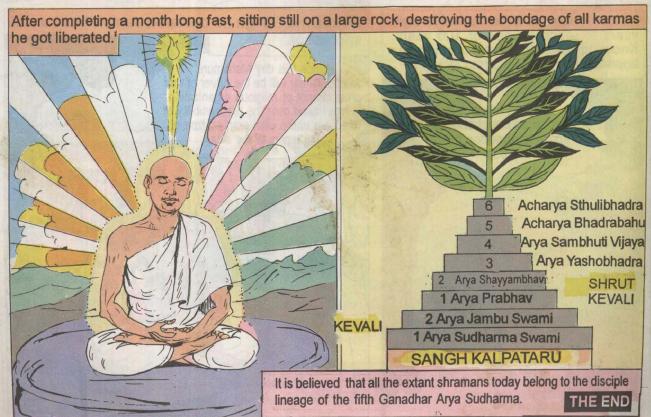
He moved about as an omniscient for eight years to reach an age of 100 years. Knowing that his last moment is approaching Arya Sudharma thought—



He was 92 years old then.







FACTS OF AND ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL ABUSE

Dear friends,

The information in this article will help you minimize the daily suffering and exploitation of living creatures. Most people increase their intake of eggs and milk when they start a vegetarian diet. Many vegetarians do not realize the gross exploitation involved in supporting the dairy industry, as well as the wool, leathergoods and fur industries. Here are some of the facts and alternatives for you to consider. This information is compiled by Jain Meditation Center, New York.

FACTS and a mark blood of evitience even

ETHICS OF AHIMSA (NON-VIOLENCE)

Factory Farming is the method of intensive breeding used today which employs assemblyline technology and reduces mammals and birds to production units confined under the most inhumane conditions. Stress, disease, pain and suffering for the animals is the inevitable result.

Cows

The cow, a naturally docile animal, has been turned into a flesh and blood milk machine, drugged and injected with hormones and antibiotics. She ultimately suffers the horrors of the slaughterhouse when she is no longer profitable as a producer of milk and veal.

Cows are artificially forced into a continuous state of pregnancy and made to produce 400 times their normal amount of milk. This results in widespread infectious diseases unknown to them under natural conditions and necessitates the use of various antibiotics.

Newborn calves are taken from their mothers so that we can drink the milk intended for them. They are placed in lightless wooden crates, fed an anaemia-inducing liquid diet, all to produce white veal.

Rennet, used to curdle most cheeses, is obtained from the stomach of a freshly killed very young calf.

Chickens - Street Chickens - Street Chickens

Factory farm bred layer hens are confined 4-5 per 1-2 feet square wire mesh cages arranged in tiers. Over 90% of all eggs produced come from factory farms.

A broiler chicken's lifespan is from 8-10 weeks. The average space allotted them is about 1/2 square foot per bird.

This overcrowding produces such stress and neurotic behavior in the

birds that they resort to feather-pecking, scratching and cannibalism. The solution to this is to remove half of the upper and lower beaks of all the birds by putting them through a hotknife machine, to clip their toes, constant dim lighting and anti-stress chemicals added to their water and food.

"Free-range" hens are ultimately slaughtered when their productivity drops off.

Sheep

Sheep, by nature, do not have "too much" wool. Scientific breeding, under factory farm conditions, creates an excessive amount of wool.

Sheep are shorn continuously in all seasons. Every year, hundreds of thousands of sheep die from exposure to cold. A closely shorn sheep is more sensitive to cold than a naked human.

Sheep are not shorn by "experts" as we see in educational films. The truth is that sheep are pinned down violently and shorn quickly while blood-staunchers stand by to cover the cuts with tar.

Old sheep are ultimately shipped to the slaughterhouse in abominable conditions and without food or water.

If people were to stop eating lamb and mutton, sheep would still be raised for their wool alone. Buying woollen products supports this cruelty.

Bees who have salregized all w barselin box

Bees are bred commercially, their honey and combs taken from them, and given a cheap sugar subtitute on which they cannot survive. Thousands upon thousands die. Honey also contains toxins harmful to us which the bees produce as a preservative.

Fur-Bearing Animals

Most often, trapping does not result in a quick death. Trapped animals, especially with the steel leghold traps most commonly used, often are caught for days until the traps are checked. Many chew their limbs off to escape.

Trapping results not only in painful anguish for the trapped animal, but starvation for its young.

Commercially bred fur-bearing animals (such as mink) are raised in cramped anxiety provoking pens and do not live to reach 1 year. The methods of killing them are painful, in order to avoid scarring the valuable coats.

Cosmetics and Experimental Use of Animals

Cosmetics include toothpaste, shampoo, mouth-wash, talcum, hand lotions, lipsticks, eye cosmetics, face creams, hair conditioners, perfumes

and colognes. Most cosmetics contain animal products and are tested on animals in laboratories. Though the FDA does not require such testing, they endorse the Gillette procedures for tests on animals.

Common tests on animals are the LD/50 test which induces death in 50% of the animals used (rats, mice, guinea pigs and dogs) to determine the lethal dose of a product; the Draize test, used to measure eye irritancy in cosmetics and other products by restraining rabbits and administering increasing amounts of the product directly to the cornea; the Acute Dermal Toxicity test which presses the substance on the shaved skin of an animal after abrasions have been made on its skin and there are still other tests.

Soaps usually contain animal fats like tallow (stearic acid and related salts). Shampoos can contain tallows, animal glycerine, placenta collagen, animal proteins and fish liver oil. Many commercial toothpastes contain glycerine.

Expensive perfumes commonly contain musk, a secretion scraped from the genitals of male civet cats in Ethiopia. These cats undergo hundreds of such painful scrapings during their lifetime.

Entertainment:

Circuses, Zoos, Rodios, Horse Racing etc.

Animals for the most part are put through painful training and forced to perform and live an existence totally alien to their natural way of life. Countless animals are killed before a good specimen is captured to fill the many zoos and circuses. Many die in transport. Their young ones are left behind to starve. Electric prods are used in rodios, and the gentle domesticated steers and horses are made to "buck" by a leather belt tightened around their abdomens pressing against their genitals. Horns are broken, animals are strangled while being roped, kicked and abused. Circus animals are forced to perform as freaks. The training is very unpleasant. Horses bred for racing are genetically bred by humans for swiftness, but suffer constantly from weak and sprained ankles, broken bones and drug abuse, often, they must be "destroyed".

Health

Meat, cheese and eggs are extremely high in saturated fats and the cholesterol that accumulates on the arterial walls is the major factor of heart attacks.

Large amounts of antibiotics and chemicals are readily used to control the vast amounts of diseases that meat animals, cows and chickens are prone to get due to their unnatural living and breeding conditions. These drugs are present in the animals' meat, milk and eggs.

Even the diet of a moderate meat eater works the kidneys three times harder than the diet of a vegetarian, due to the excess toxic wastes in meat which the kidneys try to eliminate.

Lard, the white rendered fat of a hog is not readily digestible. It is used widely in commercially baked goods, many name brands.

Less radioactive fallout is found in vegetable milks (cow's milk generally shows a count of 98 of the element Strontium 90 compared to a count of 2.1 in vegetable-based milk).

Cow's milk has a different constitution from human's milk. Cow's milk is made of elements developing animal, whereas human milk helps build the nerves and brain faster than the bulk of the body.

Cow's milk is not the only source of calcium. It's content in cow's milk is 120 mg. per 100 grams; Erazil nuts have 176-186 mg.; almonds have 234-247 mg.; kale has 179-200 mg.; sea kelp has over 1,000 mg.; and unhulled sesame seeds have 1,160 mg.; just to name a few other sources.

ECONOMICS, ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The waste and fecal matter, chemicals, grease etc. from the meat packing industry empties into our sewer systems and then into our rivers. Slaughterhouses and feedlots are some of the worst polluters of land, water and air.

A diet including meat and dairy products requires the daily consumption of 8 times more gallons of water than that needed to produce non-animal foods.

Non-animal diets require 1/4 acre per person, whereas meat and dairy eaters require over 2 acres.

One half of the world's population is hungry or malnourished. There is a shortage of over 8 million tons of food, rising to an estimated 100 million tons by the year 2000. A total-vegetarian diet would END the world hunger crisis.

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